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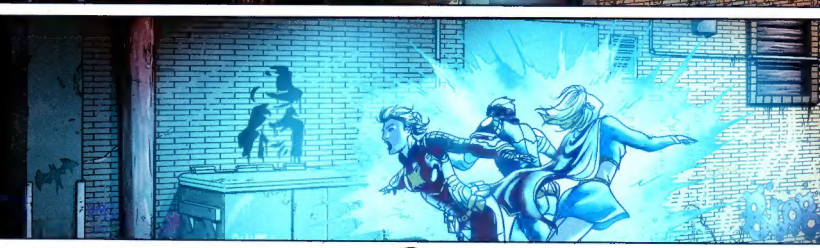
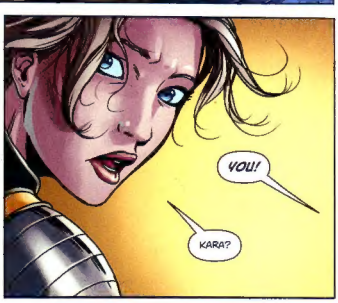


...NIGHTWING?... CHRIS...?
...RIGHT HERE...
...OH, GOOD...

...FEEL LIKE CRAP, THOUGH.
NO IDEA. LAST THING I REMEMBER, WE WERE CHASING NADIRA AND AZ-REL--
WHERE ARE WE?


YOU!
KARA?

YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!
SUPERGIRL?!
UNH
KRASH!
FIRST YOU LET MY FATHER DIE, THEN YOU TRY TO KILL ME!?!
DID RAO TELL YOU TO DO IT? IS THAT IT?!?
KARA, I DIDN'T--
HAVE YOU FINALLY LOST YOUR MIND?!?
KARA...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
DON'T LIE TO ME!!!
KARA, STOP IT! SHE DIDN'T ATTACK YOU! NEITHER OF US WOULD!
I'M YOUR COUSIN.
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHO ARE YOU?
...CHRIS...?
...BUT...BUT...THE PHANTOM ZONE, YOU WERE--
OH MY GOD--
--IT'S THEM! IT'S THE KRYPTONIANS!
MURDERERS!
GO HOME!
SOMEONE, CALL THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--
DIRTY ALIEN--
GET THEM!
KILLERS! MURDERERS!
BUT WE'RE NOT...

...NATIONAL THERAPY AUTHORITY HAS BEEN RAISED TO HIGH ORANGE.
GENERAL LANE: "NO EFFORT ...KILLERS TO JUSTICE."...
CRS
...TONIAN SIGHTING IN OTTAWA ...AIR FORCE RESPONDING...
EVERBODY'S GRILL
ULTIMATE FIGHTING TOURNAM... NOVEMBER 8 ...LER VS SANTOS
SNOWFLAKE THE MUSICAL
WKRS
ONIANS WANT
REBECCAS BARBECUE
METROPOLIS 3 CONTINUE TO EVAPC... TH...
METROPOLIS 3 STILL AT LARGE... GENERAL LAN... ...WILL BE SPARED TO BOOT! ...THESE KILLERS TO JUSTICE
SANNY
...WATER RATIONING NOW IN EFFECT FOR METRO... ...AND DEEPER METROPOLIS AREA. MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MON-EL TO BE HELD...
NACHO COLA
...WE'RE HEROES...
IOGA
GOTHA... KNI...

FROM THE MISTS OF LOST KRYPTON, STORIES ARE TOLD OF TWO MYTHICAL HEROES WHO TIME AND TIME AGAIN ROSE TO PROTECT THEIR PEOPLE FROM TYRANNY AND TERROR...

NIGHTWING AND FLAMEBIRD

THE HUNT FOR REACTRON PART 1

GREG RUCKA and STERLING GATES: Writers
PERE PÉREZ: Artist
JAVIER MENA: Colorist ◆ ROB LEIGH: Letterer
CAFU with SANTIAGO ARCAS: Cover
WIL MOSS: Asst. Editor ◆ MATT IDELSON: Editor

SENT IN A ROCKET FROM THE REMAINS OF KRYPTON AS A TEENAGER, KARA ZOR-EL WAS TRAPPED IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION BEFORE SHE ARRIVED ON EARTH YEARS AFTER HER COUSIN, SUPERMAN. NOW LIVING WITH HER MOTHER ON THE PLANET NEW KRYPTON, KARA FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE KRYPTONIAN WAY AS...

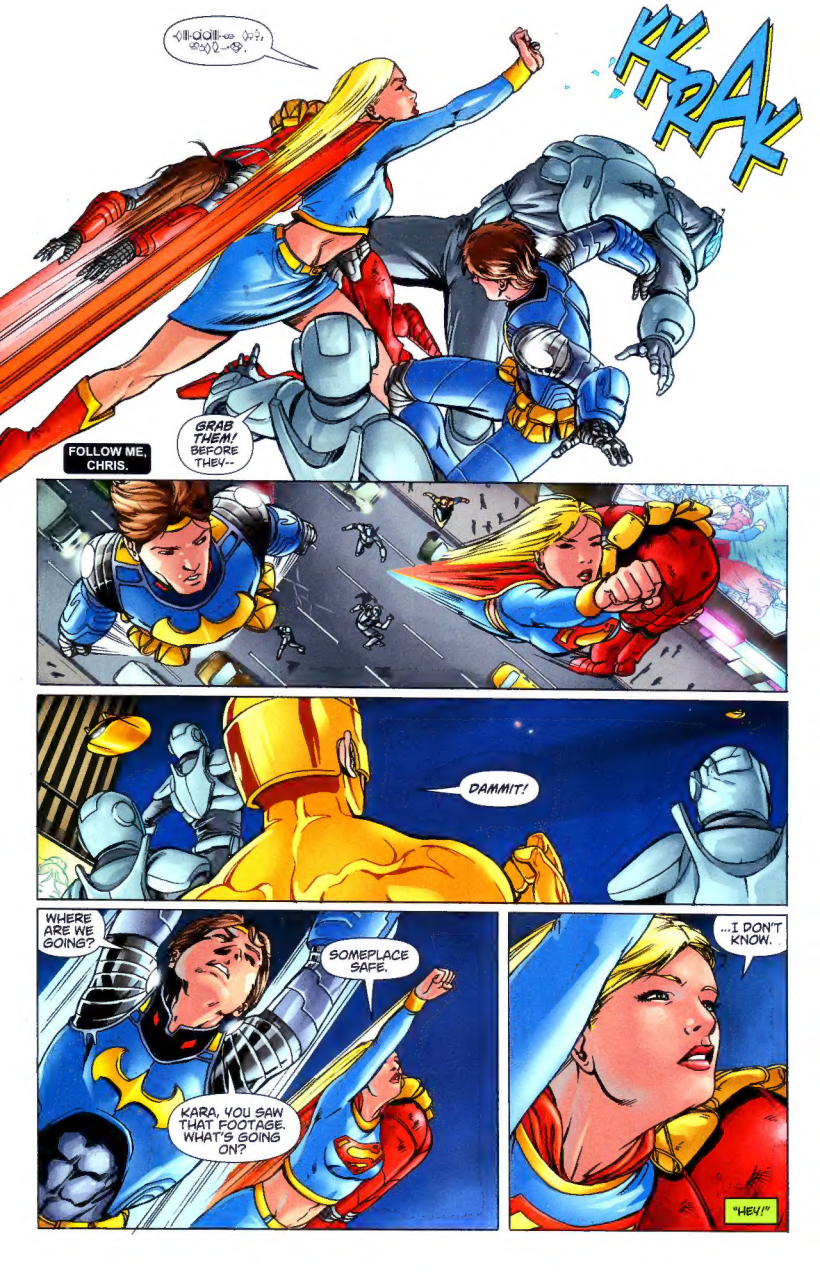
SUPERGIRL

SUPERMAN created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster

BUT... BUT WE DIDN'T--
YOU!
YOU MURDERED MY FRIEND!
mmG!
AHHHH--!
KRAAK
...KARA...
SCIENCE POLICE--
SNOWFLAKE
--HIT 'EM HARD.
UH OH.

COME QUIETLY, KRYPTONIANS. THOUGH--
--WE WON'T MIND IF WE HAVE TO HURT YOU.
KHOOOM
KKSSHH
WE'RE PRETTY HARD TO HURT.
THARA! THEY'RE POLICE! DON'T--
FIRE PLASMA BURSTS! SOL LEVEL HEAT!
FWHO
OOSH
AAAAAH!
KSSSSH

THARA!
NO! STOP IT! WE'RE NOT KILLERS--
--MMMTHAT'S TRUE--NNGG-- GIVE UP!
YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE, SON--
--AND YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR MON-EL'S DEATH.
I INTEND FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR IT.
NNNNAA!


KRAK
FOLLOW ME, CHRIS.
GRAB THEM! BEFORE THEY--
DAMMIT!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
SOMEPLACE SAFE.
KARA, YOU SAW THAT FOOTAGE. WHAT'S GOING ON?
...I DON'T KNOW.
"HEY!"

SOMEONE TURN THAT UP!
MAJOR KRULL--REACTRON--PLEASE STOP MOVING!
TURN THE DAMN TV UP!
THAT WAS SUPERGIRL, I WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
STILL READING YELLOW.
CAN YOU ISOLATE THE LEAK?
EDGE OF REASON
GREAT. TOO LATE.
THANKS, GUYS.
HAVING FUN, KRULL?
LOOK AT YOU, CORBEN. MR. SPIT-AND-POLISH FINALLY GOT A DATE?
HARDLY. I'M DELIVERING A BRIEFING AT THE PENTAGON IN AN HOUR, TALKING ABOUT ANTI-KRYPTONIAN TACTICS.
GENERAL LANE SEEMS TO THINK IT'LL HAVE MORE WEIGHT COMING FROM METALLO, I SUPPOSE.

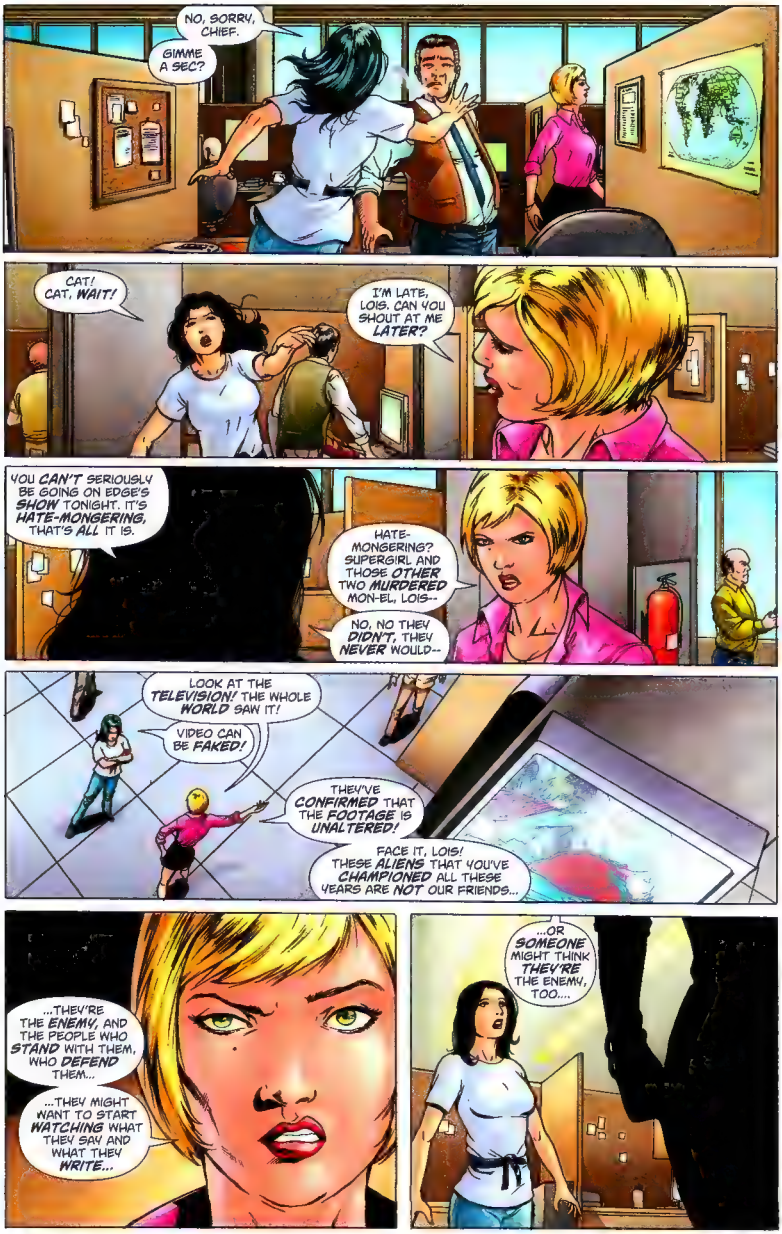
YOU KIDDING ME? I SHOULD BE GOING WITH YOU!
YOU'D KILL HALF THE E-RING WITH RADIATION POISONING, KRULL.
THEY FIND THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK YET?
TAKE A GUESS.
THE THREE STOOGES THERE'VE BEEN WORKING ON ME FOR DAYS, SEEMS LIKE.
IT'S THAT WITCH'S FAULT, THAT MIRABAI BABE.
I THINK SHE MESSED ME UP WITH ALL THOSE SPELLS SHE WAS THROWING ON US.
MUST'VE BEEN ONLY YOU, THEN. I FEEL GREAT.
NICE TO BE BACK IN UNIFORM.
I BET.
I'LL CHECK ON YOU WHEN I GET BACK. LET YOU KNOW HOW IT WENT.
YOU SEE LANE, YOU TELL HIM I'M NOT JUST GONNA HANG AROUND HERE! I NEED TO GET SOME ACTION, CORBEN.
IT'S OPEN SEASON ON KRYPTONIANS OUT THERE...
...AND I'VE GOT MY EYE ON ONE IN PARTICULAR...

AUJOURD'HUI REUNION DE L'OTAN EN VUE D'UNE DISCUSSION SUR LES MENACES DE LA NOUVELLE KRYPTON...
ALLA NOTIZIA DELL'OMICIDIO DI MON-EL, SEGUONO INNUMEREVOLI MESSAGGI DI CONDOGLIANZE
NANO-BOMB HAS MADE REPAIRING METROPOLIS'S WATER SUPPLY IMPOSSIBLE...
YOU... YOU GOT OLDER...
...ONIENS MAIS ILS ONT DISPARU AU DESSOUS DE L'ATLANTIQUE
¡PRESTADLOS! QUE VAYAN A JUICIO EN LA HAYA.
NOTICED THAT, HUH?
...ERY LAST ONE AND KILL THEM! YES, YOU HEARD ME. THEY'RE MURDERERS--
KINDA HARD TO MISS...
...ITH SUPERGIRL, BUT THOSE OTHER TWO PRETENDED TO BE HUMAN. THEY BETRAYED US--
CON MARKOVIA ANUNCIARON HOY LOS E.E.U.U. -
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOU AND THARA?
ZOD HAS SPIES ON EARTH. WE'RE TRYING TO FIND THEM.
...RMATION OF A NEW HUMAN DEFENSE CORPS SPECIFICALLY CHARTERED TO DEAL WITH KRYPTONIANS AND--
...AND I THINK I'M KINDA IN LOVE WITH HER.
CHRIS, LISTEN TO ME. THARA'S NOT HEALTHY. SHE'S NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD...
...CED A GLOBAL SEARCH FOR THE METROPOLIS 3, OFFERING A REWARD--
"...SHE'S A RELIGIOUS NUT. I THINK SHE REALLY BELIEVES THAT RAO TALKS TO HER.
THIS WHOLE NIGHTWING AND FLAMEBIRD THING...
IT GOES BACK TO WHEN WE WERE KIDS. SHE'S OBSESSED WITH THEIR MYTH.

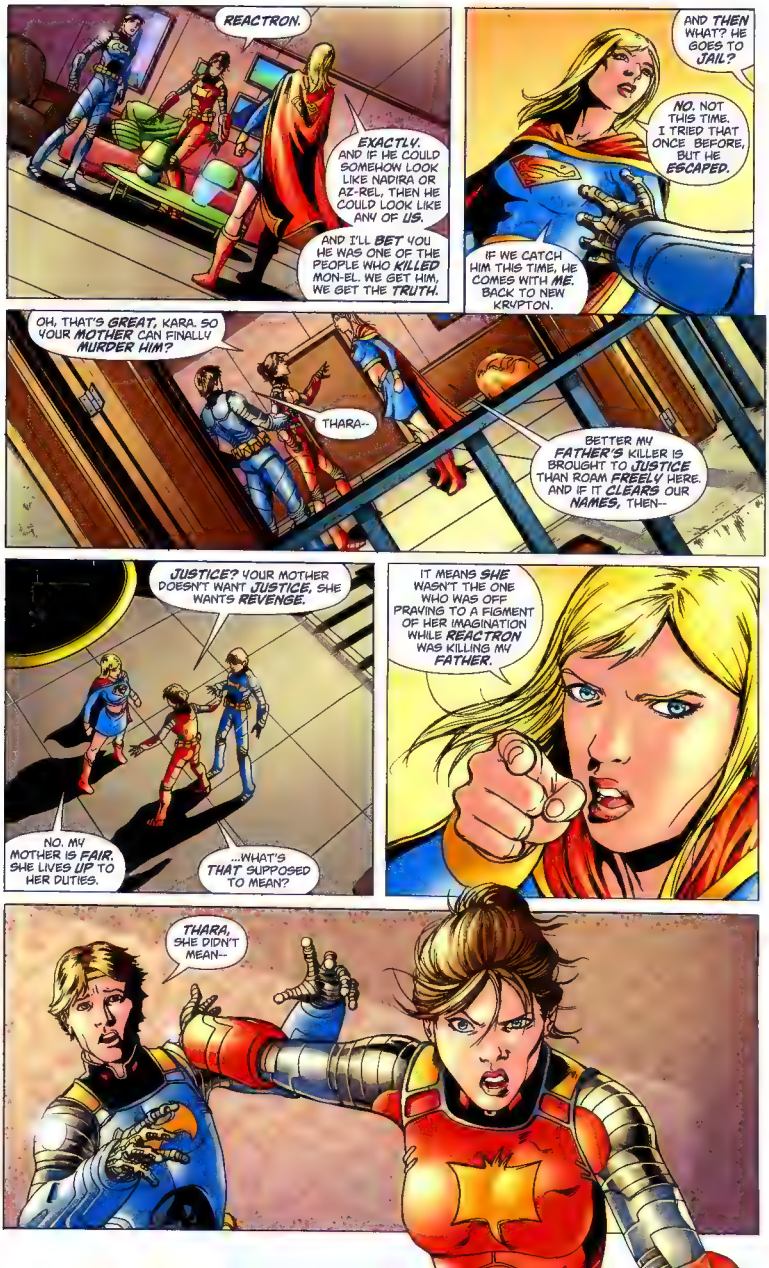
--SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND IT'S ALL A FAIRY TALE.
IT'S NOT REAL, CHRIS.
SO WHERE ARE WE?
KAL KEEPS HIS FORTRESS IN THE ARCTIC.
I KEEP A LOT OF LITTLE ONES ALL OVER.
LIKE BATMAN. ONE BIG CAVE AND A LOT OF SATELLITE ONES THROUGHOUT GOTHAM.
WHO DO YOU THINK I STOLE THE IDEA FROM?
WELL, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL APARTMENT, KARA, IN A BEAUTIFUL CITY--
YES, IT IS--

--JUST LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FAIRY TALE.
UH--
I LISTENED TO THE WORLD. EVERYONE THINKS WE MURDERED THIS MON-EL PERSON.
BUT WE DIDN'T--
NO, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE DID. SOMEONE IS WORKING VERY HARD TO GET US OUT OF THE WAY.
BUT THE QUESTION IS: WHO?
I DON'T KNOW, KARA.
THE VOICES IN MY HEAD WON'T TELL ME.

--NO, LANE, LOIS LANE--
--LING THE ALTERCATION IN GLENMORGAN SQUARE, THE METROPOLIS 3 FLED THE CITY...
--YES, THAT'S RIGHT, EXACTLY LIKE GENERAL LANE!...
...BECAUSE HE IS MY FATHER! LET ME TALK TO--
. DAMAGE TO THE WATER WORKS ON A SUBATOMIC LEVEL THAT'S RESISTING ALL OUR ATTEMPTS TO REPAIR IT...
OLSEN!
...CITIZENS LINING UP OUTSIDE OF CITY HALL TO RECEIVE THEIR FIRST WATER RATION.
--NIGHT ON "EDGE OF REASON," MORGAN SPEAKS WITH CAT GRANT ABOUT SUPERGIRL, KRYPTONIANS, AND...
LANE, HAVE YOU SEEN--
--EXCUSE ME?
BECAUSE I'M HIS DAMN DAUGHTER! NOW EITHER FIND HIM OR GET SOMEONE WHO CAN, AND--
HE HUNG UP.
I HATE THE ARMY
LOIS, HAVE YOU SEEN OLSEN?


NO, SORRY, CHIEF.
GIMME A SEC?
CAT! CAT, WAIT!
I'M LATE, LOIS. CAN YOU SHOUT AT ME LATER?
YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY BE GOING ON EDGE'S SHOW TONIGHT. IT'S HATE-MONGERING, THAT'S ALL IT IS.
HATE-MONGERING? SUPERGIRL AND THOSE OTHER TWO MURDERED MON-EL, LOIS--
NO, NO THEY DIDN'T, THEY NEVER WOULD--
LOOK AT THE TELEVISION! THE WHOLE WORLD SAW IT!
VIDEO CAN BE FAKED!
THEY'VE CONFIRMED THAT THE FOOTAGE IS UNALTERED!
FACE IT, LOIS! THESE ALIENS THAT YOU'VE CHAMPIONED ALL THESE YEARS ARE NOT OUR FRIENDS...
...THEY'RE THE ENEMY, AND THE PEOPLE WHO STAND WITH THEM, WHO DEFEND THEM...
...THEY MIGHT WANT TO START WATCHING WHAT THEY SAY AND WHAT THEY WRITE...
...OR SOMEONE MIGHT THINK THEY'RE THE ENEMY, TOO....

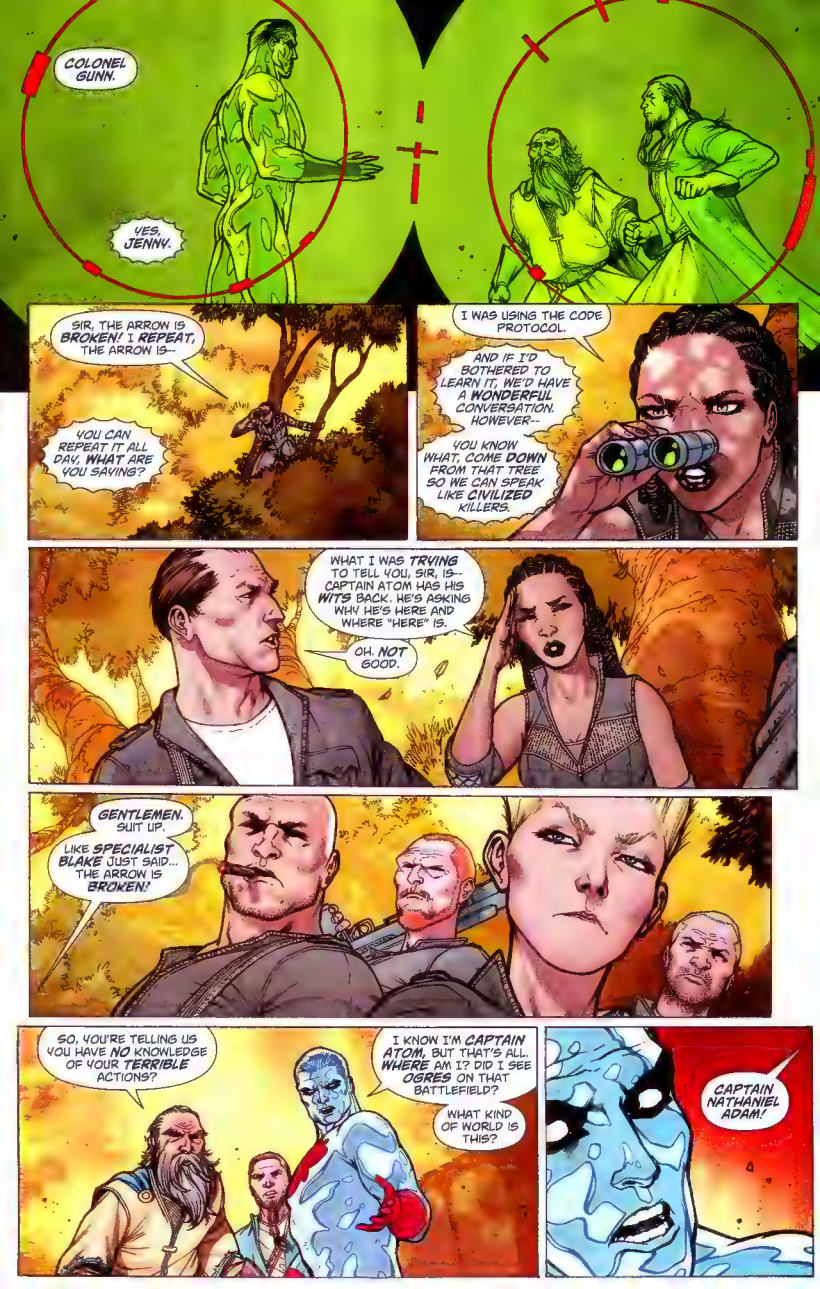
THARA?
IS WHAT KARA SAID *TRUE?* ABOUT NIGHTWING AND FLAMEBIRD? THAT THEY'RE A *MYTH?*
CHRIS, I...
...DOES IT *MATTER?*
WELL...
...*SORT OF.*
I--IT--
IT'S *OKAY.* BUT I NEED TO KNOW THE *TRUTH,* THARA. WE CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT--
I THINK I *GOT* IT.
YOU WERE CHASING NADIRA AND AZ-REL THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES TUNNELS WHEN SOMEONE ATTACKED YOU WITH KRYPTONITE, RIGHT?
SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE THEM. SOMEONE WHO TOOK AWAY OUR *POWERS.*
WHICH MEANS *GOLD KRYPTONITE.*
AND THE ONLY GUY I KNOW WHO *HATES* KRYPTONIANS AND CARRIES A PIECE OF GOLD K IN HIS CHEST IS--


REACTRON.
EXACTLY. AND IF HE COULD SOMEHOW LOOK LIKE NADIRA OR AZ-REL, THEN HE COULD LOOK LIKE ANY OF US.
AND I'LL BET YOU HE WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED MON-EL. WE GET HIM, WE GET THE TRUTH.
AND THEN WHAT? HE GOES TO JAIL?
NO. NOT THIS TIME. I TRIED THAT ONCE BEFORE, BUT HE ESCAPED.
IF WE CATCH HIM THIS TIME, HE COMES WITH ME. BACK TO NEW KRYPTON.
OH, THAT'S GREAT, KARA. SO YOUR MOTHER CAN FINALLY MURDER HIM?
THARA--
BETTER MY FATHER'S KILLER IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE THAN ROAM FREELY HERE. AND IF IT CLEARS OUR NAMES, THEN--
JUSTICE? YOUR MOTHER DOESN'T WANT JUSTICE, SHE WANTS REVENGE.
NO. MY MOTHER IS FAIR. SHE LIVES UP TO HER DUTIES.
...WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT MEANS SHE WASN'T THE ONE WHO WAS OFF PRAYING TO A FIGMENT OF HER IMAGINATION WHILE REACTRON WAS KILLING MY FATHER.
THARA, SHE DIDN'T MEAN--

CRNK
LES KRYPTONIENS! ILS SONT LÀ! ILS DÉTRUISENT LA TOUR!
HNNH!
KYRPCH

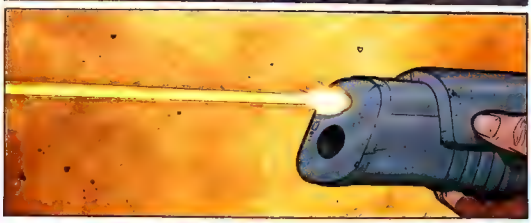
[illegible],
YOU THINK I DON'T BEAT MYSELF UP EVERY DAY ABOUT HIS DEATH?!
SHUT UP.
YOU THINK I DIDN'T LOVE HIM? ZOR-EL WAS A FATHER TO ME IN THAT DAMN BOTTLE! HE LOVED ME LIKE I WAS HIS OWN--
YOU STUPID BABOOTCH.
JUST SHUT UP!
AAAHH!
VZZZT
HE WAS MY FATHER AND YOU KILLED HIM!
GUYS! GUYS, C'MON, STOP!
SOMEONE'S GONNA SEE US--
LITTLE LATE FOR THAT.

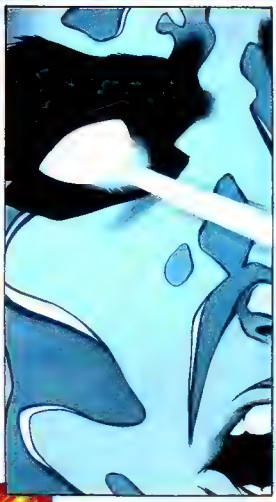
SQUAD K--
--TAKE 'EM DOWN!
OH, SON-OF-A--
NEXT WEEK in SUPERGIRL #45
THE METROPOLIS 3 VS. SQUAD K!
AND NOW... CAPTAIN ATOM

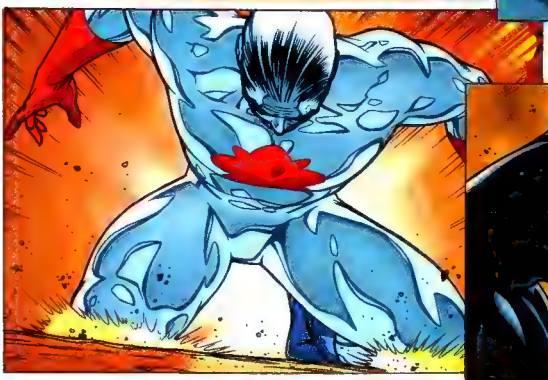

COLONEL GUNN.
YES, JENNY.
SIR, THE ARROW IS BROKEN! I REPEAT, THE ARROW IS--
YOU CAN REPEAT IT ALL DAY, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I WAS USING THE CODE PROTOCOL.
AND IF I'D BOTHERED TO LEARN IT, WE'D HAVE A WONDERFUL CONVERSATION. HOWEVER--
YOU KNOW WHAT, COME DOWN FROM THAT TREE SO WE CAN SPEAK LIKE CIVILIZED KILLERS.
WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU, SIR, IS-- CAPTAIN ATOM HAS HIS WITS BACK. HE'S ASKING WHY HE'S HERE AND WHERE "HERE" IS.
OH. NOT GOOD.
GENTLEMEN. SUIT UP.
LIKE SPECIALIST BLAKE JUST SAID... THE ARROW IS BROKEN!
SO, YOU'RE TELLING US YOU HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR TERRIBLE ACTIONS?
I KNOW I'M CAPTAIN ATOM, BUT THAT'S ALL. WHERE AM I? DID I SEE OGRES ON THAT BATTLEFIELD?
WHAT KIND OF WORLD IS THIS?
CAPTAIN NATHANIEL ADAM!

YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS TO SURRENDER, OR--
OH, TO HELL WITH IT--
FIRE AT WILL!

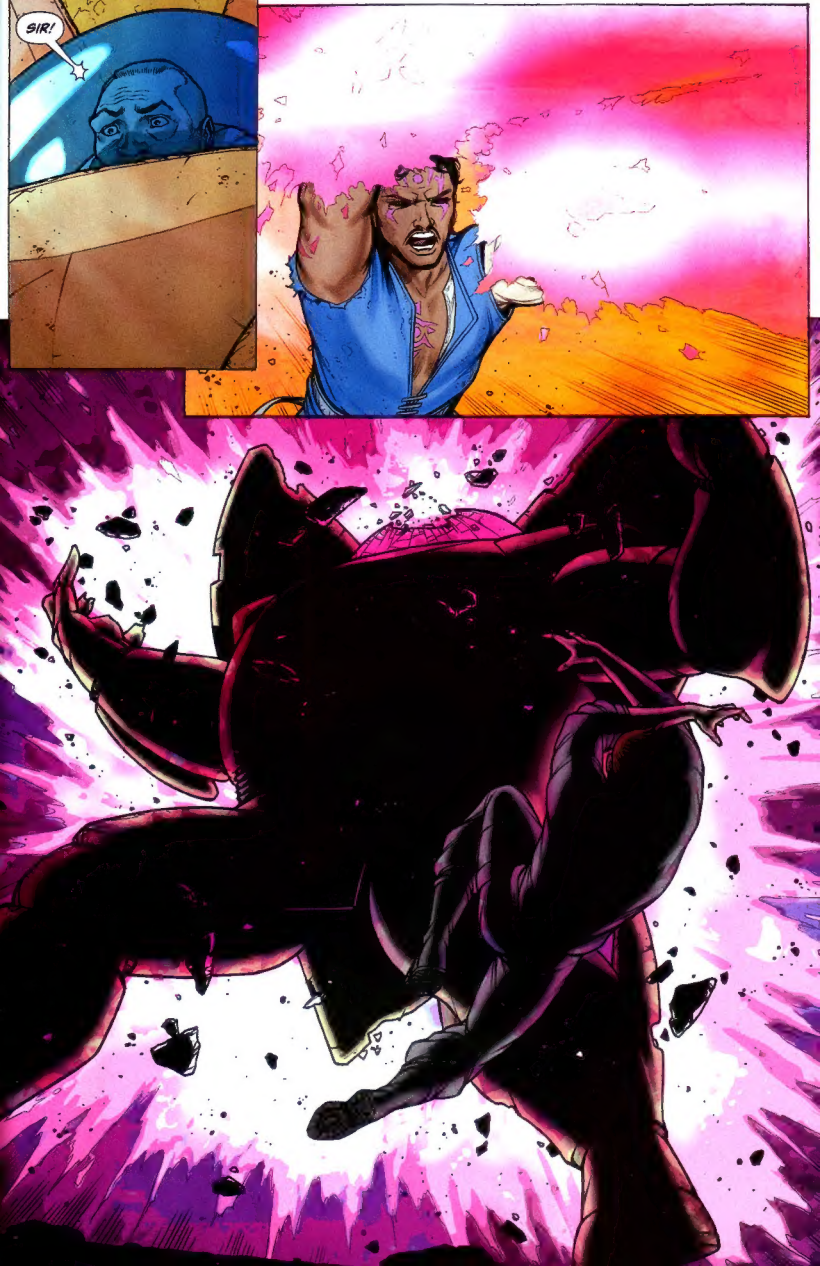
MY LORD!--
I'LL--
RUN NOW!
WHILE YOU
CAN!



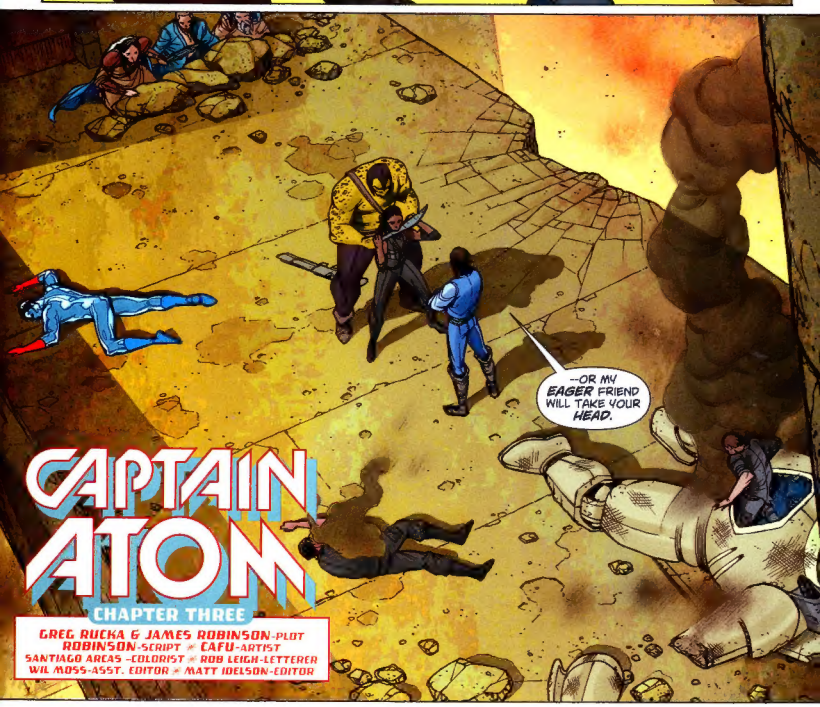




SHOULD WE HELP?
HELP THE ARROW OF THE FORLORN?
HE SAVED ME AND LORD GADREV BOTH.
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD DO THE TRICK.
YOU RESPOND TO A FRONTAL ASSAULT, FIRE WITH FIRE. BUT ON OUR END--JUST A DIVERSION FOR ME TO DEPROGRAM YOUR MIND--JUST IN THE SHORT TERM FOR NOW.
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE GET YOU BACK TO BASE--
ONE ACT OF GOOD DOESN'T UNDO ALL THE BAD HE'S DONE. ALL THE DEATH.
WODAN SPEAKS WITH WISDOM, ROYARD. FOR ONCE. LEAVE HIM TO WHATEVER BE HIS FATE.
--THEY'LL SCRAMBLE YOUR SKULL SO YOU'LL NEVER HAVE AN INDEPENDENT THOUGHT AGAIN.
ALL RIGHT, BLAKE, GET THE RESTRAINTS ON--
THERE'LL BE NO SHACKLES FOR THIS ONE, VILLAIN!


SIR!

A CHOICE, GIRL. YOU HELP US TAKE CAPTAIN ATOM HERE--


--OR MY EAGER FRIEND WILL TAKE YOUR HEAD.
CAPTAIN ATOM
CHAPTER THREE
GREG RUCKA & JAMES ROBINSON-PLOT
ROBINSON-SCRIPT ★ CAFU-ARTIST
SANTIAGO ARCAS -COLORIST ★ ROB LEIGH-LETTERER
WIL MOSS-ASST. EDITOR ★ MATT IDELSON-EDITOR

SPOILER BAT-ENDINGS.

Well, if you were wondering who the new Batgirl is but haven't read the first issue of her new series, I suggest you skip this column. But, if you did read it… please, by all means, continue.

For several months we've teased you about our plans to launch a new Batgirl series, but we never said who'd be inside the costume. And there was much speculation on who might actually wear the cowl. Barbara Gordon might have seemed a logical choice; after all, Hal Jordan and Barry Allen were back in costume, so why not Barbara? And then there was talk of Cassandra Cain. She was the reigning Batgirl and was back to being a hero. Why not leave her in the costume? Even Misfit (from Birds of Prey), Wendy (from Teen Titans), and Bette Kane (of Flamebird fame) were thrown into the mix, just for fun. But as you now know, that group didn't make the cut. Instead we went with a character who just recently returned to the land of the living, the former Robin, current Spoiler, and now, future Batgirl, Stephanie Brown.

Choosing the new Batgirl was not an easy decision, and strong arguments could be made for most of them. At one point we were sure it would be Barbara (she was as close to being Batgirl again as Nightwing was to being dead) but after long discussions it was agreed that Oracle had become such a strong character, there was no sense going back. And since we wanted to make a change, Cassandra no longer seemed right for the role. (Not to worry, Cassandra fans; plans are afoot, in a very big way, for our favorite non-lethal assassin in 2010.) As for Wendy, Bette and Misfit, none felt strong enough for the position. That left us with the one choice we all agreed on, Stephanie Brown.

Now me and Stephanie, we go way back. As a fan I followed her story in ROBIN comics, and when I first got here at DC, agreeing to her "death" was one of my first "controversial" decisions. After all, I was the one who suggested making her a Robin before killing her, so her death would seem to have more meaning. Heh. Who knew?

From the time of her death, to the outcry for a memorial, and ultimately, to her return, there is no denying that her character had connected with a portion of our fanbase and, more important, connected to the Bat-family. It just seemed to make sense that she was the one, and given her history and ties to all the members of Batman's world, the potential is there to make this new Batgirl the one fans will be speaking about for a very long time. I hope you agree and give her a try. We have a great creative team in place with **Bryan Q. Miller** and **Lee Garbett**, and I think you are going to enjoy the ride.

To be continued.

DC NATION

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